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Ah, the joy of summer! Purchasing from roadside produce stands, kayaking in Colorado, and watching fireworks ignite are all things I am looking forward to in the next several weeks. I am choosing to find beauty and joy in the everyday, small things in life. God in His love for us, gave us a beautiful world to explore.



Now, if you are a consistent news follower on any platform (I'm not), you know that the news media's focus is often negative; I'm encouraging a summer 'cleanse'. Yes, watch the weather – that's important here in the Midwest, but other than that, what positives can you share out with the world? Share some pictures of what is going on in your congregation this summer, and I will add them to my July and August articles. (julie@IowaDistrictWest.org) Sometimes it can feel like "we're the only ones doing..." or "we've done the same thing every year..." and you might give and/or get some inspiration from what is going on around IDW.

- Stop by your church/school/preschool with a fun summer treat for whoever is around that day!
- Volunteer to do VBS clean-up, because the people who are running it will be tired, in the best way.
- Pray for the new pastors, vicars, DCEs, teachers, and deaconesses in our district, as well as church workers coming to do internships in our congregations.
- Step up to be your congregation's Set Apart to Serve contact.
 - <https://www.lcms.org/set-apart-to-serve>
- Reach out to Pastor Pedro to help with the taco fundraiser on July 11
 - Pedro@IowaDistrictWest.org



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